

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method, comprising:
 - 2 receiving at a client device a key from a first network adaptor, the key being
 - 3 associated with a remote management device; and
 - 4 storing the key at a second network adapter.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the key is stored in a non-volatile storage unit
2 at the second network adapter.

- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein an encrypted version of the key is received
2 from the first network adaptor and stored at the second network adapter.

- 1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising prior to said receiving:
 - 2 determining a clear-text key during an initialization process; and
 - 3 providing the clear-text key to the first network adapter, wherein the first network
 - 4 adapter is to encrypt the clear-text key and store the encrypted key.

- 1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - 2 storing at the client device an indication that the key is currently stored at the
 - 3 second network adapter.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising prior to said receiving:
2 determining that the second network adapter is to communicate with the remote
3 management device.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the determination of the second network
2 adapter is based on a determination that the first network adapter is no longer able to
3 communicate with the remote management device.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the received key is stored in a volatile
2 memory unit at the client device, and said storing further comprises:
3 retrieving the key from the volatile memory unit; and
4 storing the key at a second network adapter.

1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising prior to said receiving:
2 selecting the first network adapter from a group of available network adapters.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein an available network adapter on a
2 motherboard is selected before a network adapter that is not on the motherboard.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the key is to be used to authenticate an alert
2 standard format message from the remote management device.

1 12. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that when executed by a
3 machine result in the following:
4 receiving at a client device a key from a first network adaptor, the key
5 being associated with a remote management device, and
6 storing the key at a second network adapter.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein an encrypted version of the key is
2 received from the first network adaptor and stored at the second network adapter.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein execution of the instructions further
2 results in, prior to said receiving:
3 determining a clear-text key during an initialization process, and
4 providing the clear-text key to the first network adapter, wherein the first
5 network adapter is to encrypt the clear-text key and store the encrypted key.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein execution of the instructions further
2 results in:
3 storing at the client device an indication that the key is currently stored at
4 the second network adapter.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein execution of the instructions further
2 results in, prior to said receiving:
3 determining that the second network adapter is to communicate with the
4 remote management device.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the determination of the second network
2 adapter is based on a determination that the first network adapter is no longer able to
3 communicate with the remote management device.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the received key is stored in a volatile
2 memory unit at the client device, and said storing further comprises:
3 retrieving the key from the volatile memory unit, and
4 storing the key at a second network adapter.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein execution of the instructions further
2 results in, prior to said receiving:
3 selecting the first network adapter from a group of available network
4 adapters.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein an available network adapter on a
2 motherboard is selected before a network adapter that is not on the motherboard.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the key is to be used to authenticate an
2 alert standard format message from the remote management device.

1 22. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a client device processor;
3 an input path to receive a key from a first network adaptor, the key being
4 associated with a remote management device; and
5 an output path to store the key at a second network adapter.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising:
2 a volatile memory unit to store the key.

1 24. An apparatus, comprising:
2 an input path to receive a clear-text key from a client device processor, the clear-
3 text key being associated with a remote management device;
4 an encryption engine to encrypt the clear-text key and generate an encrypted key;
5 and
6 a non-volatile storage unit to store the encrypted key.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:
2 an input path to receive an encrypted key from the client device processor, the
3 encrypted key to be stored in the non-volatile storage unit.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:
2 an output path to provide an encrypted key to the client device processor.

- 1 27. An apparatus, comprising:
 - 2 a network adapter processor; and
 - 3 an input path to receive a key from another network adapter, the key being
 - 4 associated with a remote management device.

- 1 28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the input path is associated with a system
2 management bus interface.

- 1 29. A method, comprising:
 - 2 determining a clear-text key during an initialization process at a client device, the
 - 3 key being associated with a remote management device;
 - 4 storing the clear-text key at a network adaptor; and
 - 5 receiving from the network adaptor an encrypted version of the key.

- 1 30. The method of claim 29, further comprising:
 - 2 storing the encrypted version of the key at another network processor.

- 1 31. A system, comprising:
 - 2 a client device processor, including:
 - 3 an input path to receive a key from a first network adaptor, the key being
 - 4 associated with a remote management device, and
 - 5 an output path to store the key at a second network adapter; and
 - 6 an Ethernet port.

1 32. The system of claim 31, further comprising:
2 a network adaptor coupled between the client device processor and the Ethernet
3 port.